COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

MISSION

The Durham County Center of NC Cooperative Extension helps individuals, families and communities use research based knowledge and county resources to help improve the quality of their lives.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Cooperative Extension currently consists of five organizations. These include Youth & Adult Programs, Environmental Education, Community Outreach, Coordinated Transportation, and Family Support.

Youth & Adult programs include agricultural and natural resources, family and consumer education, food safety and nutrition, 4-H youth development programs, and the department's administration. Coordinated Transportation provides access to transportation for the disadvantaged and disabled citizens of Durham County. Environmental Education, supports efforts to encourage environmental conservation among adults and children. This includes the design and support of the Compost Corner at the NC Museum of Life and Science and efforts to develop solar and alternative energy education programs in Durham County. Community Outreach supports the efforts of citizens to become more involved in their communities and in the delivery of county services. It develops collaborative relationships between county government and communities for the express purpose of serving citizens more effectively. A comprehensive Family Resource Center in Eastway Elementary School in cooperation with Durham Public Schools offers opportunities for supporting youth and families. The program also includes the administrative and program training for the juvenile crime prevention program supported by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The Future

Cooperative Extension's goals support the mission of Durham County Government by focusing on the education of its youth, health and welfare of all citizens through educational empowerment and access to services. Partnerships with the human service agencies, the business community, and our universities will result in new opportunities for our youth and our communities. The organization has set

the following goals in an attempt to support the overall goals of Durham County Government.

2003-04 OBJECTIVES

- Cooperative Extension will provide homeowners, landowners, and agri-businesses with research based resources that protect Durham County's environment and enhance the economic or aesthetic value of property.
- Cooperative Extension will partner with human services agencies in facilitating citizen access to services and resources that improve their health and welfare.
- Cooperative Extension will provide life skills and certification training that enhances the employability and safety of Durham County citizens.
- Cooperative Extension will provide opportunities for students to develop skills that enhance school performance and prepare them for active participation as citizens.
- Cooperative Extension will support juvenile crime prevention programs that contribute to a continuous of services needed to address juvenile delinquency.

